بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم

Al-Farouq

Vol 14 – No. 8

PO Box 4280 – Korsten 6014
Port Elizabeth – South Africa
Email: alfataawa@gmail.com

And remind (others), for the reminder most certainly benefits the Believers
Surah Zhaariyaat, verse 55

Muharram 1444 *July 2022*

THE MONTH OF MUHARRAM

Muharram is the first month of the Islamic year. We are currently in the year 1443. The beginning of Muharram will signal the start of year 1444 Hijri. *Hijri* refers to the Hijrat or migration that Rasoolullah (sallallahu alayhi wasallam) undertook from Makka to Madinah. Hazrat Omar (radhiyallahu anhu), the second Khalifah of Islam, is responsible for the creation of the Islamic calendar. When he devised the Islamic calendar, he took counsel from the Sahaaba (radhiyallahu anhum) and they all agreed that the calendar should begin from the year of Hijrat. That is why our calendar is known as The *Hijri* Calendar.

Upon the commencement of the new Islamic year, there is no special practice or function to be observed. Some kitabs mentioned a virtue of fasting on the first day of Muharram, but this is not established from authentic ahadeeth.

Muslim do not celebrate new year, nor do they wish each other "happy new year". This is a practice of the kuffar and is prohibited. Likewise, it is a bid'ah and not permissible to great others with "Muharram Mubarak". Muslims should abstain from using social media to perpetuate and circulate this bid'ah.

DUA AT THE START OF THE ISLAMIC MONTH OR YEAR

Hazrat Abdullah ibn Hisham (radiyallahu 'anhu) reports that the Sahabah (radiyallahu 'anhum) would learn the following du'a (and read it) when the new month or new year begins:

اَللّٰهُمَّ أَدْخِلْهُ عَلَيْنَا بِالْأَمْنِ وَالْإِيمَانِ وَالسَّلاَمَةِ وَالْإِسْلاَمِ وَرِضْوَانٍ مِّنَ الرَّحْمَانِ وَجَوَازٍ مِّنَ الشَّيْطَانِ

(Translation: O Allah! Enter upon us this (month or year) with security, with Iemaan, with peace, with Islam, and with Your Pleasure and protection from Shaytaan.

(Narrated by Imam Tabaraani – Majma'uz-Zawaaid

The above dua is, therefore, sunnat to read at the start of an Islamic month or year. Besides this, there is no other authentic dua to be recited at the start of an Islamic year.

NOTE: Some people are circulating two lengthy duas to be read at the end and start of the Islamic Year. I have seen these duas and researched their origin. These duas are found in a book titled *Nuzhatul-Majaalis* that was written by an Aalim several centuries ago. However, this book is noted for the inclusion of fabricated ahadeeth and unsubstantiated information. The author quotes these duas but does not provide any reference for the source. We can, therefore, safely say that these duas are not sunnah to read, and anyone who reads them believing that they are sunnah or that its recitation will bring special rewards, is committing a bid'ah. Furthermore, in some places people gather in the masaajid to read these and other duas in congregation. This is an additional bid'ah that must be avoided.

FASTING IN MUHARRAM

Some kitabs mention fasting on the first day of Muharram, but this too, is not proven from authentic ahadeeth. However, what is sunnah is to fast on the 9th and 10th of Muharram. The hadeeth also encourages fasting on any day throughout this month.

There is no specific ibaadat or amal to be observed during the first 10 days of Muharram. However, there is an authentic hadeeth that encourages spending lavishly on one's family on this day.

"Whoever lavishes on his family in expenses on the day of 'Aashura, Allah Ta'ala shall lavish on him in sustenance for the rest of that year"

(Narrated *in Shu'abul-Iemaan, At-Targheeb*, and *Maqaasida-e-Hasanah*, among others)

TESTIMONY OF PIOUS PREDECESSORS

Imam Ibn Abdul-Barr (rahimahullah) states in *Al-Istizhkaar*: ***"We have tried this (spending lavish on family on the Day of Aashoora), and have found it to be accurate"*** **(**That is, we have seen the benefits)

Another great Muhaddith and faqih, Sufyan ibn 'Uyaynah (rahimahullah) said:

"I have been doing this for fifty to sixty years and have always seen its benefit"

Lataa-iful Ma'aarif)

THE DAY OF ĀSHOORĀ

The word *Aashoora* comes from the Arabic word *Ashr* which means ten. *Aashoora* means the tenth. This is used specially for the 10th of Muharram to indicate that it is a day marked with special barakaat and blessings. Hazrat Mulla Ali Qaari write in his commentary on *Mishkaatul-Masaabeeh* that because Allah Ta'ala honoured 10 Prophets on this day, therefore the word "tenth" was used specifically for the tenth day of Muharram. These 10 Ambiyaa (alaihimus-salaam) are as follows:

1) **Nabi Moosa** *alayhis-salaam*: On this day Allah Ta'ala saved Nabi Moosa and the Bani Isra-eel from Fir'oun by commanding the Red Sea to split open so that they could pass through safely. Fir'oun and his army were drowned in the same ocean.

2) **Nabi Nooh** *alayhis-salaam*: When the floods subsided, the ship of Nabi Nooh bearing himself and about 80 of his followers came to rest on Mt. Ararat in Eastern Turkey. They all disembarked in safety. That day was the 10th Muharram.

3) **Nabi Yunus** *alayhis-salaam*: On the day of Aashoora Nabi Yunus was delivered from the belly of the huge fish that had swallowed him, after spending three days therein.

4) **Nabi Adam** *alayhis-salaam*: On this sacred day Almighty Allah accepted the taubah of our great father, Adam (May Allah's Eternal Salutations be upon him and upon Our Messenger Muhammad).

5) **Nabi Yusuf** *alayhis-salaam*: This great Nabi was rescued from the well in which his brothers had thrown him. At that stage Hazrat Yusuf was only 7 years of age.

6) **Nabi Eesa** *alayhis-salaam*: This great Messenger of Allah was born on the 10th Muharram and on this day was he raised up to the heavens.

7) **Nabi Dawood** *alayhis-salaam*: Allah accepted his taubah on this day, after Dawood (alayhis salaam) had issued a verdict between two parties which, though being fair and just, was not of the standard expected from him by Allah Azza Wa Jall.

8) **Nabi Ayyoob** *alayhis-salaam*: On this day Almighty Allah granted him total cure from a skin disease that lasted for 18 years.

9) **Nabi Ya'qoob** *alayhis-salaam*: On this day Allah Ta'ala gave him back his sight after he had become blind due to excessive crying over the loss of his beloved son Yusuf *alayhis-salaam*

10) **Nabi Sulaiman** *alayhis-salaam*: On the 10th Muharram Allah Ta'ala granted Hazrat Sulaiman a kingdom which no one before nor after enjoyed: he ruled over man and jinn, over the wind, the birds, and the mountains.

OTHER HISTORICAL EVENTS THAT TRANSPIRED ON THIS DAY

► Before Islam the Quraish had committed a sin for which they were very remorseful. Some of their wise people suggested that they fast on the 10th Muharram as a means of compensation and forgiveness. (*Fathul Baari*) From this it emerges that the significance of the Day of Aashoora was known to the Arabs well before Islam, hence this suggestion.

► The Quraish used to drape the cloth onto the Holy Ka'ba on this day.

► When Nabi Moosa and the Bani Isra-eel were saved from their enemies on this day, they started observing the 10 Muharram as a day of fasting. Likewise, Nabi Nooh (alayhis salaam) also instructed his followers to fast on this day as a thanksgiving unto Allah Ta'ala.

AHADEETH ON ITS VIRTUES

- Rasoolullah ﷺ said: Regarding the Fast of Aashoora, I have hope in Allah that it will compensate for the previous year's sins. (Muslim Shareef)
- Rasoolullah ﷺ said: The best of fast after Ramadaan is fasting in the month of Muharram. (Muslim Shareef)
- It is recorded in all but one of the six major works on hadith (i.e. Bukhari, Muslim, Abu Dawood, Tirmizhi, and Ibni Majah) that before Ramadaan the fast of Aashoora was compulsory. Later on, when the fast of Ramadaan became faradh, this fast was made optional.
- Rasoolullah ﷺ said: Whoever spends lavishly on his family on the Day of Aashoora, Allah will grant him lavish rizq for the rest of the year. (Bayhaqi)
- **NOTE:** Spending on family refers to providing them with food and other necessities. This does not refer to giving gifts to family or friends.

ACTIONS ON AASHOORA NOT SUBSTANTIATED FROM ANY HADITH

The following activities and practices are not supported by hadith or any of the former Ulema and Scholars:

- **Sharing gifts on this day.** To share gifts is a sunnat practice and may be done at any time. Do not pick this particular day to exchange gifts. Handing out gifts specifically on the day of Aashoora denotes a special relationship between the two, and this results in bid'ah.
- **Inviting family and friends for a meal.** This is also a noble practice which may be done at any time. When people do it specially in Aashoora day, it becomes a bid'ah.
- To believe that it is wrong to have ghusl on this day. This is a superstition that has no basis in Islam.

- **To believe it is wrong to apply surma or kajal on Aashoora**. This is a superstition of the Jaahilyyah, as well as a fabrication of Shiah to mourn the martyrdom of Hazrat Husain (radhiyallahu anhu).
- **To wear black in this day**. A bid'ah that also emanated from the Shiahs.
- **To mourn on this day**, especially to mourn the death of Hazrat Husain (radhiyallahu anhu). As we have proven above, Aashoora was a distinctive day long before Imam Husain. The significance of this day was ordained by Allah from the time He created the heavens and earth. Allah Ta'ala states in Surah Taubah (chapter 9), verse 36: "***The number of months according to Allah is twelve, since the day that He created the heavens and the earth. Among them four are sacred, so wrong not yourselves during these months.***" From this we learn that the sacred months were ordained right since the inception of the universe. It is, therefore, wrong from all aspects to believe the day of Aashoora only became sacred since the martyrdom of Hazrat Husain (radhiyallahu anhu). Instead, Hazrat Imam Husain was so great and revered by Allah, that Allah Ta'ala granted him martyrdom on such a sacred day as Aashoora. This was the pinnacle of Hazrat Husain's achievements.
- Many fabricated stories have been invented by the Shias and their ilk regarding Aashoora and the martyrdom of Imam Husain. Muslims must remember, the benchmark for stories and narrations of Deen is the hadith of Rasoolullah ﷺ and the narratives of the Sahaaba and Ulema after them. Anything that does not match these criteria must be compulsorily rejected.
- Very soon social media will be abuzz with messages and posts pertaining to Aashoora. Most of these are unsubstantiated, unfounded, and sheer fabrication. Please ignore such messages and/or delete them from your inbox. To forward or circulate such dubious messages is a sin on its own. Rasoolullah ﷺ said*: "It is enough for a man to be branded a liar that he conveys to others whatever he hears (without verifying its authenticity)".* Our Deen is pure and pristine; we do not need lies to extol the virtues of our deeds and acts of worship. Attributing false information to Islam, or to Allah, or to His Rasool is a grievous sin.

May Allah Ta'ala grant us peace and safety, strong Ieman and Islam, and protection from Shaytan. May Allah grant us His Eternal Pleasure, aameen